

DEC 13 2004

TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Robert J. Mrofka et al.)	Attny Docket No.:	RJM-01
)		
Serial No.:	10/615,315)	Group Art Unit:	3611
)		
Filed:	July 8, 2003)	Confirmation No.:	9362
)		
For:	Towing Hitch Extension)	Examiner:	Kevin Hurley

**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES
TO OVERCOME CITED PATENT (37 CFR §1.131)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. This Declaration is to establish completion of the invention disclosed and claimed in the above-captioned application in the United States at a date prior to January 6, 2003, the filing date of U.S. Pat. No. 6,742,799 to Hansen that was cited by the Examiner in an Office Action dated August 20, 2004.

2. The persons making this Declaration are the inventors.

3. To establish the date of completion of the invention, we state that we discussed and worked on this invention at least as early as July 2002 as established by the attached photograph which is submitted as evidence:

Exhibit 1 showing a prototype of the inventive device secured to the rear of a van. (Photograph dated July 24, 2002 on reverse side.)

4. From this photograph, it can be seen that the invention in this application was made before January 6, 2003.

6. This Declaration is submitted prior to final rejection.

As a person signing below, I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

Date: 12-18-04 Name: Ted Kowalski
Ted Kowalski

Date: _____ Name: _____
Robert J. Mrofska

As a person signing below, I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

Date: _____ Name: _____

Ted Kowalski

Date: 12/16/04 Name: Robert J. Mrofska

Robert J. Mrofska